

Advance Plans Committee: 2003-4 Comprehensive Plan Update

Summary of Meeting #10

7:30 am, March 11, 2004

Attendance

Committee Members: Morris Dunlap, Bud Hentzen, John McKay, M.S. Mitchell

MAPD staff: Dave Barber, Nalini Johnson, Stephen Banks, Scott Wadle

Discussion Summary

1. **Election of Committee Chairman.** Mitch Mitchell was elected as the new chair of the Advance Plans Committee.
2. **Discussion on the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.** Staff mentioned that Scott Wadle will be doing some background work related to the pathways update to the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Some Committee members voiced the opinion that there was never proper funding for the plan, and that for that reason, the plan has not been as useful as it might be. Several Committee members mentioned the need to revise the plan.
3. **Presentation and Discussion of 2030 Population and Employment Control Numbers as the Basis for the 2003-04 Comprehensive Plan Update.** Stephen Banks presented the population estimates as developed by staff and WSU.
 - a. The population estimates provided by Janet Harrah at WSU predicted a 2030 population for the Sedgwick County of nearly 539,000. The WSU prediction was notably less than the 567,000 forecast produced by MAPD staff in 1999. Staff felt that all the forecast signs still point to a population of 567,000 by 2030. Accordingly, the 2030 population forecast proposed by MAPD for Sedgwick County is 567,000. The 2030 population forecast for the Wichita urbanized area is 580,000. MAPD staff concluded that Sedgwick County will experience the following rates of population growth in the future: 1.1 percent growth to 2010; 0.7 percent growth after 2010.
 - b. The revised estimates proposed by MAPD staff provide a control number that needs to be distributed among the various Sedgwick County municipalities. Areas where city boundaries adjoin each other will see a spill-over effect from one municipality into another. This is one reason why the distribution of the population will require more time and a more lengthy process to complete.
 - i. Various examples of population distribution both of adjoining municipalities and isolated municipalities were presented and discussed during the meeting.

- ii. The appropriation of population to the Wichita downtown/core area was questioned and discussed. Staff described the estimates as taking into account the growth in Old Town, the development of the Water Walk, and the general revitalization of the core area as a result of the new developments.
 - iii. Committee members asked what is the downside to overestimating the population of municipalities, and are there advantages for over estimating population? Staff responded that there are no penalties for overestimating when making consideration for infrastructure planning purposes.
- c. MAPD staff felt that the employment estimates provided by WSU failed to take into account an increasingly larger participation rate for older persons in the workforce. That assumption combined with the number of commuters from outside the county, outlying employment opportunities, and developing urban areas brought MAPD staff to develop the employment forecast of 362,000 in the Sedgwick County labor force by 2030. Committee members asked if there would be a labor shortage in the future? Staff commented that due to the increased participation rate of older persons in the labor force combined with increased migration rates, a labor shortage may not be an issue in the future.
 - d. Committee members questioned the need to spend \$10,000-12,000 to hire WSU to produce the population and work force estimates. Staff pointed out that the figures produced by WSU provide an independent baseline to measure staff estimates against.

The next Advanced Plans Committee meeting was set for April 8th at 7:30 am.